

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 DHA-02
NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /091 W
-----241330Z 075313 /53

O R 241126Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3435
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 242
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1315

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ASEC, PINS, LE
SUBJECT: JUNBLATT ASSASSINATION SITUATION MARCH 24

REF: BEIRUT 1296 (DTG 230142Z MAR 77)

1. SUMMARY: MARCH 24 IS BEING OBSERVED IN WEST BEIRUT
AND ELSEWHERE IN LEBANON AS A DAY OF MOURNING FOR JUNBLATT,
WITH THE FOCUS ON PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED AT 1100.

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SECURITY SITUATION HOWEVER CONTINUES TO IMPROVE, WITH
NO FURTHER REPORTS OF VIOLENCE. CHRISTIANS SEEM TO BE
RELAXING THEIR PRESSURE ON THE GOL ON BEHALF OF CHOUF
CHRISTIANS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED IN WEST BEIRUT. SITUATION
REMAINS QUIET AND TENSION CONTINUED TO ABATE IN WEST

BEIRUT. TODAY, MARCH 24, SEVEN DAYS AFTER JUNBLATT'S BURIAL, "PRAYERS FOR THE ABSENT" ARE BEING SAID AT VARIOUS MOSQUES. PSP OFFICES HAVE SET UP LOUDSPEAKERS TO BROADCAST PROCEEDINGS. ALTHOUGH WALID JUNBLATT HAS CALLED FOR PRAYERS BUT NO STREET DEMONSTRATIONS, SOME PROCESSIONS HAVE OCCURRED ANYWAY. SHOPS AND SCHOOLS IN WEST BEIRUT ARE GENERALLY CLOSED. LIFE IN EAST BEIRUT IS ABOUT NORMAL. SIDON AND TRIPOLI LIKEWISE ARE EXPECTED TO OBSERVE THE SEVENTH DAY.

3. CHRISTIAN LEADERS RELENTING. CAMILLE CHAMOUN (WHO CURRENTLY THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE KFUR FRONT "DIRECTORY") SAID HE STILL AWAITING RESULTS OF GOVERNMENT ACTION TO CONTROL SITUATION IN THE CHOUF. HOWEVER, HE ALSO INDICATED TO THE PRESS THAT THE KFUR FRONT IS CONCERNING ITSELF WITH OTHER QUESTIONS AS WELL, INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAIRO ACCORDS, AND WILL MEET AGAIN IN A FEW DAYS. NOTABLY ABSENT WERE ANY IMPLICATIONS OF ANY DEADLINE FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION OR THAT THE CHRISTIAN MILITIA MIGHT TAKE MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS. HOWEVER, WE STILL HAVE INDICATIONS THAT CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS MAY YET UNDERTAKE SOME REPRISALS, ON A SMALL SCALE.

4. WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF FURTHER CHRISITAN-DRUZE STRIFE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE NOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ASSASSINATION OF JUNBLATT HIMSELF. DESPITE CONFIRMATION (REFTEL) THAT SOME 16 DRUZES ACCUSED OF KILLING CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN DETAINED, MAYOR OF DEIR EL QAMAR MARCH 24 TOLD DATT THIS IS NOT THE CASE.

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5. UNLESS THERE IS A RESURGENCE OF TENSION, THIS WILL BE THE LAST OF THIS SERIES OF DAILY REPORTS ON THE POST-JUNBLATT SITUATION.

PARKER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Remarks:
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